

Appl. No. 10/698,288
Amdt. dated September 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 12, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(CANCELED)

2.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The combination of ~~claim 4~~ claim 6 wherein the tapered region extends substantially the entire length of the shank.

3.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The combination of ~~claim 4~~ claim 6 wherein the tapered region extends over a substantial portion of the length of the shank.

4.(CANCELED)

5.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The combination of ~~claim 4~~ claim 6 wherein the slope of the first portion is greater than the slope of the second portion and the first portion is proximate the end of the pin and the second portion is proximate the head of the pin.

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6.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A combination comprising:

a pair of panels for use in constructing a poured concrete structure, each of the panels having a flange extending from a face of the panel, each flange having at least one aperture formed therethrough;

a pin having an enlarged head and an elongated shank extending between the head and an end of the pin, the shank having a through slot spaced from the head;

a tapered region on the shank of the pin, the tapered region extending from the end of the pin to include at least a portion of the through slot;

wherein the tapered region further comprises a first portion and a second portion each extending axially on the shank of the pin, a slope of the first portion being different than a slope of the second portion of the tapered region; and

a wedge having a first end which is larger than a second end thereof, the second end being sized to pass through the through slot and the first end being sized not to pass through the through slot;

wherein the end of the pin is inserted into and through the apertures in the flanges of the panels and the head preventing the pin from passing entirely through the apertures, the flanges of the panels being juxtaposed to one another and the second end of the wedge inserted into and through the through slot to releasably couple the panels together and the tapered region facilitating removal of the pin from the apertures after the wedge is withdrawn from the slot;

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~~The combination of claim 4~~ wherein a juncture between the first and second portions intersects the through slot.

7.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The combination of ~~claim 4~~ claim 6 wherein a cross section of the shank is generally circular.

8.(ORIGINAL) The combination of claim 7 wherein the tapered region extends around an entire circumference of the shank of the pin.

9.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The combination of ~~claim 4~~ claim 6 further comprising:

a tie-rod positioned between the flanges of the concrete wall form panels, the tie-rod having a hole through which the shank of the pin is inserted, the tie-rod being positioned on the tapered region of the shank when positioned between the flanges and the pin is inserted through the hole.

10.(CANCELED)

11.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The combination of ~~claim 10~~ claim 15 wherein the tapered region extends substantially the entire length of the shank.

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12.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The combination of ~~claim 10~~ claim 15 wherein the tapered region extends over a substantial portion of the length of the shank.

13.(CANCELED)

14.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The combination of ~~claim 13~~ claim 15 wherein the slope of the first portion is greater than the slope of the second portion and the first portion is proximate the end of the pin and the second portion is proximate the head of the pin.

15.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A combination for connecting a first concrete wall form panel to a second concrete wall form panel wherein the first panel has a first flange extending outwardly therefrom and a first aperture formed therethrough, the second panel has a second flange extending outwardly therefrom and a second aperture formed therethrough which is aligned with the first aperture, the combination comprising:

a pin having an enlarged head and an elongated shank extending between the head and an end of the pin, the shank having a through slot spaced from the head;

a tapered region on the shank of the pin, the tapered region extending from the end of the pin to include at least a portion of the through slot;

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wherein the tapered region further comprises a first portion and a second portion each extending axially on the shank of the pin, a slope of the first portion being different than a slope of the second portion of the tapered region; and

a wedge having a first end which is larger than a second end thereof, the second end being sized to pass through the through slot and the first end being sized not to pass through the through slot;

wherein the end of the pin is adapted to be inserted into and through the apertures in the flanges on the panels and the head preventing the pin from passing entirely through the apertures, the flanges of the panels being juxtaposed to one another and the second end of the wedge inserted into and through the through slot to releasably couple the panels together and the tapered region facilitating removal of the pin from the apertures after the wedge is withdrawn from the slot;

~~The combination of claim 13~~ wherein a juncture between the first and second portions intersects the through slot.

16.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The combination of ~~claim 10~~ claim 15 wherein a cross section of the shank is generally circular.

17.(ORIGINAL) The combination of claim 16 wherein the tapered region extends around an entire circumference of the shank of the pin.

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18.(CANCELED)

19.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The pin of ~~claim 18~~ claim 23 wherein the tapered region extends substantially the entire length of the shank.

20.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The pin of ~~claim 18~~ claim 23 wherein the tapered region extends over a substantial portion of the length of the shank.

21.(CANCELED)

22.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The pin of ~~claim 21~~ claim 23 wherein the slope of the first portion is greater than the slope of the second portion and the first portion is proximate the end of the pin and the second portion is proximate the head of the pin.

23.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pin for connecting a first concrete wall form panel to a second concrete wall form panel wherein the first panel has a first flange extending outwardly therefrom and a first aperture formed therethrough, the second panel has a second flange extending outwardly therefrom and a second aperture formed therethrough which is aligned with the first aperture, the pin comprising:
an enlarged head;

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an elongated shank extending between the head and an end of the pin;
a through slot in the shank and spaced from the head; and
a tapered region on the shank extending from the end of the pin to include at
least a portion of the through slot;
wherein the tapered region further comprises a first portion and a second
portion each extending axially on the shaft of the pin, a slope of the first portion being
different than a slope of the second portion of the tapered region;
wherein the end of the pin is adapted to be inserted into and through the
apertures in the flanges on the panels and the head preventing the pin from passing
entirely through the apertures, the flanges of the panels being juxtaposed to one
another and the tapered region facilitating removal of the pin from the apertures;
~~The pin of claim 21~~ wherein a juncture between the first and second portions
intersects the through slot.

24.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The pin of ~~claim 18~~ claim 23 wherein a cross section
of the shank is generally circular.

25.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The pin of ~~claim 16~~ claim 23 wherein the tapered
region extends around an entire circumference of the shank of the pin.

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26.-28.(CANCELED)

29.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for assembling a concrete form for constructing a poured concrete structure, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a first and a second panel relative to one another with a first flange on the first panel confronting a second flange on the second panel;

aligning a first hole in the first flange with a second hole in the second flange;

inserting an end of a pin and a slot in a shank of the pin through the first and second holes, the shank of the pin including a first and a second tapered region, the tapered regions meeting at a juncture intersecting ~~extending a length of the shank to include at least a portion of the slot; and~~

inserting a first end of a wedge through the slot until the first and second flanges are coupled to one another thereby releasably coupling the panels together.

30.(ORIGINAL) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

positioning a tie-rod between the first and second flanges;

aligning a hole in the tie-rod with the first and second holes in the first and second flanges; and

inserting the pin through the tie-rod hole;

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wherein removal of the pin from the first and second holes and the tie-rod hole is facilitated by the tapered region on the shank of the pin.

31.(ORIGINAL) The method of claim 30 further comprising:
positioning the tie-rod on the tapered region of the shank of the pin.

32.(NEW) A pin for connecting a first concrete wall form panel to a second concrete wall form panel wherein the first panel has a first flange extending outwardly therefrom and a first aperture formed therethrough, the second panel has a second flange extending outwardly therefrom and a second aperture formed therethrough which is aligned with the first aperture, the pin comprising:

an enlarged head;

an elongated shank extending between the head and an end of the pin, the end of the pin being rounded;

a through slot in the shank; and

a tapered region on the shank extending a substantial portion of the shank;

wherein the tapered region further comprises a first portion and a second portion each extending axially on the shank of the pin, a slope of the first portion being different than a slope of the second portion of the tapered region;

a juncture between the first and second portions intersecting the through slot;

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wherein the end of the pin is adapted to be inserted into and through the apertures in the flanges on the panels and the head preventing the pin from passing entirely through the apertures, the flanges of the panels being juxtaposed to one another and the tapered region facilitating removal of the pin from the apertures.